

# Carroll Free Press.

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NO. 20.—WHOLE NO. 72.

## From the Newark Daily Advertiser. BATTLE OF PRINCETON.

BY A SERGEANT.

Three or four days after the victory at Trenton, the American army recrossed the Delaware into New Jersey.

At this time our troops were in a destitute and deplorable condition.—The horses attached to our cannon were without shoes; and when passing over the ice they would slide in every direction; and could advance only by the assistance of the soldiers. Our men too were without shoes or other comfortable clothing; and as traces of our march towards Princeton, the ground was literally marked with the blood of the soldiers' feet. Though my own feet did not bleed, they were so sore that their condition was little better.

While we were at Trenton, on the last of December, 1776; the time for which I and the most of my regiment had enlisted, expired. At this trying moment, General Washington, having now but a handful of men, and many of them new recruits in which he could place but little confidence, ordered our regiment to be paraded, and personally addressed us, urging that we should stay a month longer.—He alluded to our recent victory at Trenton, told us that our service was greatly needed, and that we could do more for our country than we ever could at any future period; and in the most affectionate manner entreated us to stay. The drums were beat for volunteers, but not a man turned out.—The soldiers, worn down with fatigue and privations, had their hearts fixed on home and the comforts of the domestic circle, and it was hard to forego the anticipated pleasure of the society of our dearest friends.

The General wheeled his horse about, rode through in front of the regiment, and addressing us again said "My brave fellows, you have done all I ever asked you to do, and more than could be reasonably expected; but your country is at stake, your houses and all that you hold dear. You have worn yourselves out with fatigue and hardships, but we know not how to spare you. If you will consent to stay only one month longer, you will render that service to the cause of liberty and to your country which you probably never can do under any other circumstances. The present is emphatically the crisis which is to decide our destiny." The drums beat the second time. The soldiers felt the force of appeal. One said to the other I will remain if you will. Others remarked, we cannot go home under such circumstances. A few stepped forth, and their example was immediately followed by all who were fit for duty in the regiment, amounting to about 200 volunteers. An officer inquired of the General, if these men should be enrolled. He replied,—"No; Men who will volunteer in such a case as this, need no enrolment to keep them to their duty."

When we were about commencing our march for Providence, Lord Cornwallis left that place with the intention of attacking and at one blow cutting off the rebel army. He appeared near Trenton, at Wood creek on the Assumpsit river, where a skirmish took place at a bridge over the creek. The Hessians were placed in front of the British troops, and endeavored to force the bridge. They were repulsed and driven back, three times by the American cannon. The Hessians were pushed on by the British commander and were cut down until the dead lay in heaps by the bridge. They retired and we were left undisturbed for the night.

Leaving our fires kindled to deceive the enemy, we decamped that night, and by a circular route took up our line of march for Princeton. General Mercer commanded the front, of which the 200 volunteers composed a part.—About sunrise on the morning of the 3d of January 1777, reaching the summit of a hill near Princeton we observed a light horseman looking towards us, as we view an object when the rising sun shines directly in our face. General Mercer, observing him, gave orders to the riflemen to pick him off.—Several made ready, but at that instant he wheeled about and was out of their reach.

Soon after, as we were descending a hill through an orchard, a party of the enemy who were entrenched behind a bank and furze, rose and fired upon us. Their first shot passed over our heads, cutting the limbs of the trees under which we were marching. At this moment we were ordered to wheel. As the platoon which I commanded were obeying the order, the corporal who stood at my left shoulder, received a ball and fell dead.

seemed to bend forward to receive the ball, which might otherwise have ended my life. We formed, advanced and fired upon the enemy. They retreated about eight rods to their packs which were laid in a line. I advanced to the fence on the opposite side of the ditch which the enemy had just left, fell on my knee, and loaded my musket with ball and buck shot. Our firing was most destructive; their ranks grew thin, and victory seemed nearly complete, when the British were reinforced. Many of our bravest men had fallen, and we were unable to stand such superior numbers of fresh troops.

I soon heard General Mercer command, in a tone of distress, "Retreat." He was mortally wounded, and died shortly afterwards. I looked about for the main body of the army, which I could not discover,—discharged my musket at a party of the enemy, and ran for a piece of wood at a little distance, where I thought I might find shelter. At this moment Washington appeared in front of the American army, riding towards those of us who were retreating, exclaimed,—"Parade with us, my brave fellows; there is but a handful of the enemy, and we will have them directly." I immediately joined the main body, and marched over the ground again.

O, the barbarity of man! On our retreat we had left a comrade of ours, whose name was Loomis, from Lebanon Ct., whose leg was broken by a musket ball, under a cart in a yard; but on our return he was dead, having received several wounds from a British bayonet! My old associates were scattered about, groaning, dying and dead. One officer, who was shot from his horse lay in hollow place in the ground, rolling and writhing in his own blood, unconscious of any thing around him. The ground was frozen and all the blood that was shed remained on the surface, which added to the horror of this scene of carnage.

The British were unable to resist this attack, and retreated into the College where they considered themselves safe. Our army was there in an instant, and the cannon was placed before the door, and after two or three discharges, a white flag appeared at a window, when the British surrendered. They were a haughty crabbled set of men, as they fully exhibited while prisoners in their march to the country. In this battle my pack, which was made fast by leather strings, was, as supposed, shot from my back, and with it went all the little clothing I had; it was, however, soon replaced by one which had belonged to a British officer, and was well furnished.

### LAST MOMENTS OF MR. KANE.

An affecting account of the last moments of Mr. Senator Kane, is given in the Globe. He was most strongly characterized by his filial attachment—and he knew no selfish feeling, but that which existed in solicitude and tenderness for his wife, and the offspring she gave him. Almost in his last moments he fancied himself in the midst of his dear domestic circle—spoke to his children as if fondling them, and invited them to play on the grass plot, and under the shade of his own trees, at home—and rose in his bed, and seemed to pluck the cool verdure to which his imaginations and affections had wandered in search of relief. Alas! his wife and children were far from him, and he forever lost to them—but he sunk to rest upon the bosoms of those who mourn his fate as deeply, although they may not feel so keenly or so long the deprivation. How strongly does this impress upon our feelings the utter nothingness of all the aspirations and honors of the public man, when compared with the substantial happiness of private life!—He looked from the rugged path, up which ambition urged him, in search of fame and distinction to the quiet of his own home, the innocent prattle of his own children, and the fond endearments of his own family! In the last solemn hour when the things of this world were fast receding from his sight, his mind naturally and instinctively turned to the source of all his real earthly joy and felicity, and fondly lingered there. He enquired not after the honors he had won—the rank to which he had attained—he thought not of the elevation to which he had been raised by the exercise of his talents—the statesman's views, the politician's cares were all forgotten—and memory, whilst it lingered around the portals of life, dwelt upon scenes endeared by recollections connected with the kindly charities of the heart, the social relations of society and all those endearments which connected it with home and friends.

In no light does the character of Burke display itself to better advantage, or more strongly grasp our interest and affections, than when we view it, in connection with those thrilling passages in the life of this great man, in which his love as a parent shone forth with so much constancy and lustre: We leave, with him, not only without regret, but with pleasure, the intellectual triumphs he was every day gain-

ing in the British legislature, to seek the philosophic retirement of his country seat where with his books and his son, he spent his leisure hours in the calm enjoyment of cultivating a mind which he hoped to assimilate with his own, and over which he never ceased to exercise a watchful guardianship.—Doubtless, he there often cast a glance downward upon the strife and turmoil he had left, and in which he was accustomed to mingle. Doubtless, he there plumed his wings for those eagle flights which he sometimes took after he had descended into the political arena, and from which he rose always sublimely! But the seclusion of his home—the shutting out of the world from his thoughts—the enjoyment of domestic happiness—this to him was felicity, which he could not gain, with all his fame all his eloquence, all his honors, away from his own doors and his own fireside.

It would almost seem that public men in devoting themselves to public affairs, voluntarily deprived themselves of most of the sweet enjoyment of life. And how often do we see them even in the midst of life and health, and the successful prosecution of their plans, look back with regard upon the scenes of their younger and better days, and sigh for their loss. In the present, they have not an equivalent for what is past, and they cannot look forward to the future with that complacency they desire, and with that prospect of satisfaction they covet. How often, sickened and disgusted, do they halt in the race of ambition, and leave the strife to other competitors!

After all, the "private station," if it be not the "post of honor," is the condition of true happiness. There is found refuge and relief, which can no where else be found. There does the wanderer, after years of vain search elsewhere, at last return, like the prodigal son who had strayed away from his father's house. There when health and strength, and life itself, are wasting away, do the thoughts centre, the affections cluster, and the memory cling, until death closes the scene, and "ends the strange eventful history."—*Alex. Gaz.*

From the U. S. Gazette.

### THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

With this day closes the year 1835. If "we take no note of time, but by its loss it is good for us to inquire how much of that which has gone, is to be noted as lost." We count not other years as lost, because they are past, any more than we should consider as lost, the seed scattered on the bosom of the earth from which we had gathered a plentiful harvest.

Is INFANCY lost, when our helplessness increased the very affection to which it was indebted for support?—when devotion of our wants brought into exercise those holy feelings that link the mother's heart with angel's affections.

Is CHILDHOOD lost, when the fresh impress of morals upon the unvisited mind obtains a tenacity that no after associations can fully efface?—when affections gush forth without deceit, and the tongue is the exponent of the heart?

Is YOUTH lost, when temptation assails the early resolution of virtue, and is defeated—when the affections begin to settle and concentrate—when the moral precepts that childhood received rise up in judgment against the yielding of the mind to error?—when the judgment begins to predominate over feeling—and the thought of responsibility begets a habit of reflection?

Is MANHOOD lost, when the world shares the heart, when ambition and business, honor and wealth, claim the affections and energies of mind and body—when, in the bustle of business, time seems all that the soul can know—when only some sudden stroke of fate awakens us to ourselves—when the schemes of the philanthropist are energetically pursued, and the great mission of religion hangs on the calculations of business, and the heralds of the everlasting gospel go forth upon the wings of commerce?

Is AGE lost? Is sober autumn lost, because it has passed away? when the harvest of life is gathered in—when freed from the profuse shoots of spring and the garish display of summer, we treasure up what has been matured and perfected by the year. Is that lost?

Are all the BLESSINGS which pleasure has scattered along our pathway of life lost to us, because they have been? Have they left no sense of gratitude? Have they increased, in no degree, our love for him who gave and them who shared?

And most of all, our sorrows and our afflictions, our deprivation of wealth and losses of friends, are these all lost?—The sigh of regret for friendship wounded—the tear of pity for sorrows unassuaged—the mortification for ambition ungratified—the shame for good unperformed, and grief for affection severed—have they produced no fruits? Are they entirely lost? Hath not the heart been amended? Have they not created a dependence upon unfailing sources? If they have not lessened affection here, have they not strengthened it for hereafter? And the treasures which we gathered, and which have perished in our hands, or have been snatched away, one by one, from our grasp, have they not taught us to lay up treasures where no moths corrupt nor thieves break through? If these notions of nature and Providence have been improved, what have we lost?

### THE "SPECIAL MESSAGE."

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

Received, and read, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations in both Houses.

MONDAY, Jan. 18th, 1836.

To the Senate, and

House of Representatives:

GENTLEMEN—In my message at the opening of your session, I informed you that our Charge d'Affaires, at Paris, had been instructed to ask for the final determination of the French Government, in relation to the payment of the indemnification, secured by the Treaty of the 4th of July, 1831, and that when advice of the result should be received, it would be made the subject of a special communication.

In execution of this design, I now transmit to you the papers numbered from 1 to 13 inclusive, containing, among other things, the correspondence on this subject between our Charge d'Affaires and the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, from which it will be seen, that France requires, as a condition precedent to the execution of a treaty unconditionally ratified, and to the payment of a debt acknowledged by all the branches of her Government to be due, that certain explanations shall be made, of which she dictates the terms. These terms are such as that Government has already been officially informed, cannot be complied with; and if persisted in, they must be considered as a deliberate refusal on the part of France to fulfil engagements binding by the laws of nations, and held sacred by the whole civilized world. The nature of the act which France requires of this Government, is clearly set forth in the letter of the French Minister, marked No. 4. "We will pay the money," says he, "when the Government of the United States is ready, on its part, to declare to us, by addressing its claim to us officially in writing, that it regrets the misunderstanding which has arisen between the two countries—that this misunderstanding is founded on a mistake—that it never entered into its intention to call in question the good faith of the French Government, nor to take a menacing attitude towards France;" and he adds, "if the Government of the United States does not give this assurance, we shall be obliged to think that this misunderstanding is not the result of an error." In the letter marked No. 6, the French minister also remarks, "that the Government of the United States knows that upon itself depends henceforward the execution of the treaty of July 4, 1831."

Obliged by the precise language thus used by the French Minister, to view it as a peremptory refusal to execute the treaty, except on terms incompatible with the honor and independence of the United States, and persuaded that, on considering the correspondence now submitted to you, you can regard it in no other light—it becomes my duty to call your attention to such measures as the exigency of the case demands, if the claim of interfering in the communications between the different branches of our government shall be persisted in. This pretension is rendered the more unreasonable by the fact, that the substance of the required explanation has been repeatedly and voluntarily given before it was insisted on as a condition—a condition the more humiliating, because it is demanded as the equivalent of a pecuniary consideration. Does France desire only a declaration that we had no intention to obtain our rights by an address to her fears rather than her justice? She has already had it, frankly and explicitly given by my Minister, accredited to his government, his act ratified by me, and my confirmation of it officially communicated by him, in his letter to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, of the 25th April, 1835, of repeated by my published approval of that letter after the passage of the bill of indemnification. Does France want a degrading, servile repetition of this act, in terms which she shall dictate, and which will involve an acknowledgement of her assumed right to interfere in our domestic councils? She will never obtain it. The spirit of the American people, the dignity of the legislature, and the firm resolve of their executive, completely forbid it.

As the answer of the French Minister to our Charge d'Affaires at Paris, contains an allusion to a letter addressed by him to the representatives of France at this place, it now becomes proper to lay before you the correspondence had between that functionary and the Secretary of State, relative to that letter, and to accompany the same with such explanations as will enable you to understand the course of the Executive in regard to it.—Recurring to the historical statement made at the commencement of your session, of the origin and progress of our difficulties with France, it will be recollected that, on the return of our Minister to the U. States, I caused my official approval of the explanation he had given to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, to be made public. As the French Government had noticed the message without its being officially communicated, it was not doubted that, if they were disposed to pay the money due to us, they would notice any public explanation of the government of the U. States in the

same way. But, contrary to these well founded expectations, the French ministry did not take this fair opportunity to re-lieve themselves from their unfortunate position, and to do justice to the United States.

Whilst, however, the Government of the U. S. was awaiting the movements of the French Government, in perfect confidence that the difficulty was at an end, the secretary of the State received a call from the French Charge d'Affaires in Washington, who desired to read to him a letter he had received from the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was asked whether he was instructed or directed to make any official communication, and replied that he was only authorized to read the letter, and furnish a copy if requested. The substance of its contents, it is presumed, may be gathered from Nos. 4 and 6 herewith transmitted. It was an attempt to let the Government of the U. S., privately know in what manner it could make explanations, apparently voluntary but really dictated by France, acceptable to her, and thus obtain payment of the twenty five millions of francs. No exception was taken to this mode of communication, which is often used to prepare the for official intercourse, but the suggestions made in it were, in their substance wholly inadmissible. Not being in the shape of an official communication to this Government, it did not admit of reply or official notice, nor could it safely be made the basis of any action by the Executive or the Legislature; and the Secretary of State did not think proper to ask a copy, because he could have no use for it.

Copies of papers, marked No. 9, 10 and 11 show an attempt on the part of the French Charge d'Affaires many weeks afterwards, to place a copy of this paper among the archives of this government which for obvious reasons, was not allowed to be done; but the assurance before given was repeated, that any official communication which he might be authorized to make in the accustomed form, would receive a prompt and just consideration. The indiscretion of his attempt was made more manifest, by the subsequent avowal of the French Charge d'Affaires, that the object was to bring this letter before Congress and the American people. If foreign agents, on a subject of disagreements between their Government and this, wish to prefer an appeal to the American people, they will hereafter, it is hoped better appreciate their own rights, and the respect due to others, than to attempt to use the Executive as the passive organ of their communications. It is due to the character of our institutions, that the diplomatic intercourse of this Government should be conducted with the utmost directness and simplicity, and that, in all cases of importance, the communications received or made by the Executive, should assume the accustomed official form. It is only by insisting on this form, that foreign powers can be held to full responsibility; that their communications can be officially replied to; or that the advice or interference of the Legislature can, with propriety, be invited by the President. This course is also best calculated, on the one hand, to shield that officer from unjust suspicions, and on the other, to subject this portion of his acts to public scrutiny, and if occasion shall require it, to constitutional animadversion. It was the more necessary to adhere to these principles in the instance in question, inasmuch, as in addition to other important interests, it very intimately concerned the national honor; a matter, in my judgement much too sacred to be made the subject of private and unofficial negotiation.

It will be perceived that this letter of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs was read to the Secretary of State on the 11th of September last. This was the first authentic indication of the special views of the French Government, received by the Government of the United States after the passage of the bill of indemnification. Inasmuch as the letter had been written before the official notice of my approval of Mr. Livingston's last explanation and remonstrance could have reached Paris, just ground of hope was left, as has been before stated that the French Government, on receiving that information, in the same manner the alleged offending message had reached them, would desist from their extraordinary demand, and pay the money at once. To give them an opportunity to do so, and at all events, to elicit their final determination, and the ground they intended to occupy, the instructions were given to our Charge d'Affaires, which were adverted to at the commencement of the present session of Congress. The result as you have seen, is a demand of an official written expression of regrets, and a direct explanation addressed to France, with a distinct intimation that this is a *statu quo non*.

Mr. Barton having in pursuance of his instructions, returned to the United States, and the Charge d'Affaires of France having been recalled, all diplomatic intercourse between the two countries is suspended—a state of things originating in an unreasonable susceptibility on the part of the French Government, and rendered necessary on our part by their refusal to perform engagements contained in a treaty, from the faithful performance of which by us they are to this day enjoying many important commercial advantages.

It is time that this unequal position of affairs should cease, and that Legislative action should be brought to sustain Executive exertion in such measures as the cases requires. While France persists in her refusal to comply with the terms of a treaty, the object of which was, by removing all causes of mutual complaint, to renew ancient feelings of friendship, and to unite the two nations in the bonds of amity, and of a mutually beneficial commerce, she cannot justly complain if we adopt such peaceful remedies as the law of nations and the circumstances of the case may authorize and demand. Of the nature of these remedies, I have heretofore had occasion to speak; and in reference to a particular contingency, to express my conviction that reprisals would be best adapted to the emergency then contemplated.

Since that period, France, by all the departments of her Government, has acknowledged the validity of our claims, and the obligations of the treaty, and has appropriated the money which are necessary to its execution; and though payment is withheld on grounds vitally important to our existence as an independent nation, it is not to be believed that she can have determined permanently to retain a position so utterly indefensible. In the altered state of the questions in controversy, and under all existing circumstances, it appears to me, that, until such a determination shall have become evident, it will be proper and sufficient to retaliate her present refusal to comply with her engagements by prohibiting the introduction of French products and the entry of French vessels into our ports. Between this and the interdiction of all commercial intercourse, or other remedies, you as the representatives of the people must determine. I recommend the former, in the present posture of our affairs, as being the least injurious to our commerce, and as attended with the least difficulty of returning to the usual state of friendly intercourse, if the government of France shall redress the justice that is due, and also as a proper preliminary step to stronger measures, should their adoption be rendered necessary by subsequent events.

The return of our Charge d'Affaires is attended with public notices of naval preparations on the part of France, destined for our seas. Of the cause and intent of these armaments, I have no authentic information, nor any other means of judging, except such as are common to yourselves and to the public; but whatever may be their object, we are not at liberty to regard them as unconnected with the measures which hostile movement on the part of France may compel us to pursue. They at least deserve to be met by adequate preparation on our part, and I therefore strongly urge large and speedy appropriations for the increase of the navy, and the completion of our coast defences.

If this array of military force be really designed to affect the action of the Government and people of the United States, on the questions now pending between the two nations, then indeed would it be dishonorable to pause a moment on the alternative which such a state of things would present to us. Come what may, the explanation which France demands can never be accorded, and no armament, however powerful and imposing, at a distance, or on our coast, will I trust, deter us from discharging the high duties which we owe to our constituents, to our national character, and to the world.

The House of Representatives, at the close of the last session of Congress unanimously resolved, that the treaty of the 4th of July 1831, should be maintained, and its execution insisted on by the United States. It is due to the welfare of the human race, not less than to our own interests and honor, that this resolution should, at all hazards, be adhered to. If, after so signal an example as that given by the American people, during their long protracted difficulties with France of forbearance under accumulated wrongs and of generous confidence in her ultimate return to justice she shall